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2.	Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)	0203209.	.2 12 FEB	2007
3.	Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)	John D <u>Pitt</u> 5 Carlaverock Road Glasgow G43 2SA	_	
	Patents ADP number (if you know it)	7511751001		
	If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation			
4.	Title of the invention	"Method and Apparatu Vehicles"	ıs for Displaying Adv	vertisements on
5.	Name of your agent (if you have one)	Murgitroyd & Compar	ny	
	"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)	Scotland House 165-169 Scotland Stro Glasgow G5 8PL	eet	
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1	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPLAYING ADVERTISEMENTS
· 2	ON A VEHICLE
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4	This invention relates to advertisements, and
5	relates more particularly but not exclusively to a
6	system for selectively attaching advertisements to
7	the sides of road vehicles or fixed sites in a
. 8	readily demountable manner, and to a method of
9	adapting road vehicles for the selective display of
10	advertisements.
11	
12	At present, static exterior advertisements are
13	achieved using posters attached to a building
14	surface or a panel provided on the building surface.
- 15	The print medium used is typically paper which is
16	pasted to the surface using an adhesive. Such
17	advertisements require considerable effort to
18	install and remove the paper medium, printing costs
19	are relatively high and planning restrictions apply.
20	
21	Furthermore, currently there are many load-carrying
22	road vehicles having substantially vertical sides

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1 which are either plain, or carry minimal information 2 (e.g. merely the name of a transport company). 3 These vehicle sides are extensively exposed to the 4 sight of the general public, not least because the 5 majority of journeys of load-carrying road vehicles 6 take place on public roads that are also extensively 7 used by pedestrians and/or users of personal road 8 transport and/or passengers in public road 9 transport. Consequently, the sides of load-carrying 10 road vehicles represent a facility for mobile 11 advertising that currently tends to be used only by 12 the vehicle owners for self-advertisement. 13 of the exteriors of road vehicles is known for 14 advertising by organisations other than the vehicle 15 owner, but such advertising is currently limited to 16 public transport vehicles that carry human 17 passengers rather than inanimate cargoes, and the 18 advertisements are either pasted-on paper, or in the 19 nature of bodywork painting that is substantially 20 permanent and not changeable without time-consuming 21 repainting of the vehicle. 22 US 5,845,423 and US 5,657,566 address the problem of 23 24 providing advertisements on the sides of load-25 carrying road vehicles, but the effectiveness of 26 their solutions is hampered by the fact that the 27 · vehicles need extensive structural modification in 28 the form of added rails, mounting brackets and 29 fasteners and the like, to allow the mounting and 30 removal of advertisement panels. Moreover the 31 advertisement panels themselves are complicated and 32 relatively expensive. Moreover the advertisement

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panels can be used only with rigid sided vehicles, 1 since they do not allow simple access to the side 2 curtains of flexible sided vehicles, which provide 3 access to the load area by allowing the removal or 4 rolling up of flexible side curtains attached to the 5 frame of the vehicle. 6 7 It is an object of the present invention to provide 8 an alternative system and method for providing 9 static exterior advertisements which require less 10 effort to install or remove, reduce printing costs 11 and avoid planning restrictions. 12 13 It is a further object of the present invention to 14 provide a system and a method for enabling mobile 15 advertisements to be selectively mounted on load-16 carrying road vehicles in a manner which is simple 17 to carry out and which is cost effective, allowing 18 the use of economical advertisement panels and the 19 requiring minimal structural alterations to a 20 vehicle to enable it to carry advertisement panels. 21 It is a further object of the invention to provide a 22 system and a method for enabling mobile 23 advertisements to be selectively mounted on both 24 rigid sided and flexible sided road vehicles. 25 26 As used in this specification, the term "vehicle" 27 refers to a road vehicle possessing substantially 28 vertical sides suitable for carrying advertisements, 29 such sides including but not being restricted to 30 permanently fixed sides, sides formed as one or more 31

panels that are demountable or hinged for providing

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access to a cargo carried by the vehicle, and 1 curtain sides (i.e. curtains of more or less 2 3 flexible sheet material whose upper edges are suspended from the vehicle, and whose lower edges 4 are clipped or strapped to the vehicle). 5 6 7 As used in this specification, the term "advertisement" refers to at least one essentially 8 two-dimensional image having an impression on a 9 10 spectator that is primarily or wholly visual. 11 According to a first aspect of the present invention 12 there is provided an advertising panel for mounting 13 to a structure, the panel comprising a sheet of 14 plastic mesh material having an image applied to a 15 first side of the sheet, wherein the panel has an 16 elongate fastener provided on at least one 17 longitudinal edge, the elongate fastener having a 18 thickness greater than the sheet and being adapted 19 20 to engage with a corresponding slot provided on the 21 structure. 22 Preferably, the advertising panel is mounted to the 23 structure of a vehicle, such as a side panel of a 24 25 vehicle. Alternatively, the advertising panel is mounted to a static structure, such as an 26 27 advertising hoarding. 28 29 In one preferred embodiment the elongate fastener 30 comprises a longitudinal member held within a hem of the sheet. Preferably the hem is formed by folding 31 an edge of the sheet around the elongate fastener 32

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and back against the sheet, then securing the edge 1 Securing may be carried out by to the sheet. 2 stitching, applying adhesive, thermal bonding, or 3 4 any suitable method. 5 In another preferred embodiment the elongate 6 fastener comprises a longitudinal member secured to 7 the sheet by an edging strip. Preferably the edging 8 strip passes around the elongate fastener and is 9 secured to each side of the edge of the sheet. 10 Securing may be carried out by stitching, applying 11 adhesive, thermal bonding, or any suitable method. 12 13 The longitudinal member is preferably flexible, for 14 example a rope, cord, rubber extrusion or similar. 15 Preferably the panel has an elongate fastener 16 provided on two opposite longitudinal edges. 17 18 Preferably the sheet is flexible. Preferably the 19 sheet is of PVC, polyester or a combination thereof. 20 Preferably the mesh is provided with apertures 21 allowing air passage therethrough. Preferably the 22 sheet has an air permeability of at least 1000 23 litres per second at 100 pascal. 24 25 Preferably the sheet of the advertising panel is a 26 woven material. Preferably the warp and weft fibres 27 are bonded to each other at their intersections. 28 29 Preferably the panel is substantially rectangular. 30 In one embodiment the panel may be provided with an 31 extension piece at one or each of the two opposite 32

side edges. Preferably the extension pieces are 1 2 provided with securing means to allow them to be wrapped around the corner of a vehicle and secured 3 4 to the vehicle. Preferably an extension piece is 5 provided on the leading edge of the sheet, the 6 leading edge being the edge nearest the front of the 7 vehicle when the panel is mounted on a vehicle. 8 Alternatively the leading edge of the sheet may be provided with a continuous fastener which extends 9 10 substantially over the entire length of the leading In another embodiment the panel may be 11 edge. 12 provided with an elongate fastener as described 13 above on each of the two opposite side edges, the 14 fastener being adapted to engage with a track member 15 on the structure. 16 According to a second aspect of the present 17 invention there is provided a vehicle, the vehicle 18 having a wall provided with a slot or slots on the 19 exterior surface thereof, the vehicle having an 20 21 advertising panel mounted on said exterior surface, 22 the panel comprising a sheet of plastic mesh 23 material having an image applied to a first side of the sheet, wherein the panel has an elongate 24 25 fastener provided on at least one longitudinal edge, 26 the elongate fastener having a thickness greater 27 than the sheet and engaged with said slot or slots 28 on said vehicle. 29 30 Preferably the advertising panel is a panel according to the first aspect of the present 31

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invention. Preferably the exterior surface is on a 1 side wall of the vehicle. 2 3 Preferably the slot or slots are provided in one or 4 more strip members bonded to the side wall by 5 adhesive. Alternatively the strip members may be secured to the side wall by fixing means such as 7 bolts, screw, rivets or similar. Preferably the 8 strip members are extruded members. Preferably the 9 slot or slots are shaped to allow keying of the 10 elongate fastener with the slot or slots. 11 preferred embodiment strip members shaped to allow 12 keying of the elongate fastener are provided on the . 13 upper and lower edges of the exterior surface, while 14 push-fit track members shaped to allow reversible 15 snap engagement of the elongate fastener are 16 provided on the vertical side edges of the exterior 17 surface. 18 19 The strip members may extend continuously over the 20 length of the elongate fastener. Alternatively, the 21 strip members are provided as discrete strips spaced 22 at regular intervals on the vehicle. 23 24 According to a third aspect of the present invention 25 there is provided a vehicle, the vehicle having a 26 load bearing volume at least partially enclosed by a 27 curtain, said curtain being provided with a slot or 28 slots on the exterior surface thereof, the vehicle 29 having an advertising panel on said exterior 30 surface, the panel comprising a sheet of plastic 31 mesh material having an image applied to a first

1 side of the sheet, wherein the panel has an elongate 2 fastener provided on at least one longitudinal edge, 3 the elongate fastener having a thickness greater than the sheet and engaged with said slot or slots 4 5 on said vehicle. 6 7 Preferably the advertising panel is a panel 8 according to the first aspect of the present 9 invention. Preferably the exterior surface is on a 10 side wall of the vehicle. 11 Preferably the slot or slots are provided in one or 12 13 more strip members bonded to the curtain by adhesive. 14 Alternatively they may be secured to the curtain by thermal bonding, ultrasonic bonding, 15 16 stitching, moulding or similar. Alternatively the 17 strip members may be secured to the curtain by fixing means such as bolts, screw, rivets or 18 similar, preferably in conjunction with a washer 19 20 plate on the opposite surface of the curtain. 21 Preferably the strip members are extruded members. 22 Preferably the slot or slots are shaped to allow 23 keying of the elongate fastener with the slot or slots. In one preferred embodiment strip members 24 25 shaped to allow keying of the elongate fastener are 26 provided on the upper and lower edges of the 27 curtain, while push-fit track members shaped to 28 allow reversible snap engagement of the elongate fastener are provided on the vertical side edges of 29 30 the curtain.

Preferably the strip members are provided as 1 discrete strips spaced at regular intervals on the 2 3 vehicle. 4 According to a fourth aspect of the present 5 invention there is provided a method of modifying a 6 vehicle to display at least one advertising panel on 7 at least one surface of the vehicle, the panel 8 . comprising a sheet of plastic mesh material having 9 an image applied to a first side of the sheet, 10 wherein the panel has an elongate fastener provided 11 on at least one longitudinal edge, the elongate 12 fastener having a thickness greater than the sheet 13 said method comprising the steps of: 14 securing one or more slotted strip members in a 15 predetermined pattern on the surface of the vehicle 16 or on a curtain adapted to be mounted on the surface 17 of the vehicle, and 18 releasably attaching the advertising panel to 19 the one or more slotted strip members by engaging 20 the elongate fastener in the slots provided on the 21 one or more slotted strip members. 22 23 Preferably the advertising panel is a panel 24 according to the first aspect of the present 25 invention. Push-fit track members may also be used. 26 27 According to a fifth aspect of the present invention 28 there is provided an advertising panel for mounting 29 to a structure, the panel comprising a sheet of 30 plastic material having an image applied to a first 31 side of the sheet, wherein the panel has a plurality 32

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1 of resilient attachment means provided along at 2 least one edge of the panel. Preferably the panel 3 is of mesh material. 4 5 According to a sixth aspect of the present invention 6 there is provided a vehicle having a rear door, the 7 rear door having mounted thereon an advertising 8 panel according to the fifth aspect of the present 9 invention. Preferably the rear door is a roller 10 shutter door. Preferably the rear door has attachment fixings secured thereto, each attachment · 11 -· 12 means being attached to an attachment fixing. 13 Preferably the resilient attachment means are 14 adapted to allow elastic extension of the attachment 15 means when the roller shutter door is in its rolled 16 state with the advertising panel mounted thereon. 17 18 Preferably the resilient attachment means comprises 19 elastic tension members of natural or synthetic 20 rubber. These may be in the form of bands, loops, 21 rods or any suitable form. They may pass through an 22 eyelet in the panel, or they may be attached to the 23 panel by any suitable securing means, including fasteners, rivets, adhesive and stitching. 24 25 26 Preferably the sheet is flexible. Preferably the 27 sheet is of PVC, polyester or a combination thereof. 28 Preferably the mesh is provided with apertures 29 allowing air passage therethrough. Preferably the 30 sheet has an air permeability of at least 1000 31 litres per second at 100 pascal.

Preferably the sheet of the advertising panel is a 1 woven material. Preferably the warp and weft fibres 2 are bonded to each other at their intersections. 3 Embodiments of the invention will now be described 4 by way of example only, with reference to the drawings in which: 7 Fig. 1 shows a curtain-sided lorry provided with 8 slotted strip members to allow attachment of an 9 advertising panel according to the invention; 10 11 Fig. 2 shows a rigid-sided lorry provided with 12 slotted strip members to allow attachment of an 13 advertising panel according to the invention; 14 15 Fig. 3 shows the lorry of Fig. 1 with an advertising 16 panel attached; 17 18 Fig. 4 shows the lorry of Fig. 2 with an advertising 19 panel attached; 20 21 Fig. 5 shows sectional views of the slotted strip 22 members and the attachment of the edge of the 23 advertising panel according to various embodiments 24 25 of the invention; 26 Fig. 6 shows a side view of one of the slotted strip 27 members of Fig. 5; 28 29 Fig. 7 shows a side view of another of the slotted 30 strip members of Fig. 5; 31

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1 Fig. 8 shows a vehicle having a roller shutter door 2 equipped to carry an advertising panel according to 3 the invention; 4 5 Fig. 9 shows the roller shutter door of Fig. 8 with 6 an advertising panel attached in the unrolled and 7 rolled positions; 8 9 Fig. 10 shows an attachment means for the 10 advertising panel of Fig. 9; 11 12 Fig. 11 shows various alternative attachment means; 13 14 Figs. 12 and 13 show alternative edge arrangements 15 for the panels of Figs. 1 to 7; and 16 17 Fig. 14 shows a cross-sectional view of a push-fit 18 track member used to secure the side edges of the 19 panels of Figs. 1 to 7. 20 21 Fig. 1 shows a vehicle in the form of a lorry 10 22 having a load area 12 which is covered on each · 23 longitudinal side by a curtain 14. The curtain 14 24 is secured to the vehicle 10 at its upper edge and 25 is tensioned in a conventional manner by means of 26 tensioning straps 18 which connect the lower edge of 27 the curtain to the vehicle. The curtain 14 and 28 straps 18 are well known in the art and may be of 29 any suitable flexible material. Typically the 30 curtain 14 is of reinforced PVC while the straps 18 31 are of nylon webbing.

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1 The surface of the curtain 18 has a number of slotted strip members 30 fixed to it, arranged in an 2 upper row and a lower row. They may be fixed by 3 adhesive 42 or other suitable means of securing the 4 members to the curtain, including fixing means such 5 as bolts, screw, rivets, staples or similar. 6 7 practice the combination of stainless steel machine screws, nyloc™ nuts and a washer plate has been 8 9 found to be an effective fastening means. Alternatively the slotted strip members may be 10 secured to the curtain by thermal bonding, 11 ultrasonic bonding, stitching, moulding or similar. 12 The slotted strip members 30 are of moulded or 13 14 extruded plastic and various non-limiting shapes are shown in Fig. 5. The members have a cylindrical 15 16 passage 34 extending therethrough and a slot 36 in 17 one side, allowing access to the passage 34. 18 The slotted strip members 30 are selected and 19 positioned to engage with elongate fasteners 22 20 provided on the longitudinal edges 24 of an 21 22 advertising panel 20, as shown in Figs. 5, 12 and 13. 23 24 . Two vertical push-fit track members 40 are also 25 26 secured to the curtain, one at each side. 27 secured to the curtain in the same way as the 28 slotted strip members 30. 29 Fig. 2 shows a lorry 10 having a load area 12 which 30 is covered on each longitudinal side by a rigid wall 31 The arrangement of slotted strip members 30 on

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the rigid wall 16 can be the same as that described 1 2 above with respect to the curtain 14 of Fig. 1, 3 although in Fig. 2 two continuous slotted strip 4 members 32 are shown, one upper member and one lower 5 member. The members 32 are bonded to the wall by 6 means of adhesive 42, although it is to be 7 understood that other suitable means of securing the 8 members to the wall may be used, including fixing 9 means such as bolts, screw, rivets, staples or 10 similar. As in Fig. 1, two vertical push-fit track 11 members 40 are also secured to the wall, one at each 12 These are secured to the wall in the same way 13 as the slotted strip members 32. 14 15 Fig. 3 shows the curtain sided lorry 10 of Fig. 1 16 with an advertising panel. 20 fixed to the curtain 14 17 using fasteners 22 which engage with the slotted 18 strip members 30 and the push-fit track members 40. 19 The panel 20 is described in more detail below. 20 edges 24 of the panel 20 are threaded through the 21 slots 36 starting at one end of the lorry 10. 22 Fig. 3 shows the panel 20 on a side wall of the 23 vehicle 10, it is to be understood that the panel 24 may be fitted to any surface of the vehicle 10, 25 including the rear surface or the roof. .26 27 Fig. 4 shows the rigid sided lorry 10 of Fig. 2 with 28 an advertising panel 20 fixed to the wall 16 in the 29 manner described above with reference to Fig. 3. 30 31 In both cases the vertical edges 26 of the panel 20 32 are engaged with the resilient extruded PVC push-fit

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track members 40 as shown in Fig. 14. However the 1 vertical edges 26 may alternatively be attached by 2 any other suitable means, such as a strip of hook 3 and loop fastener provided at each vertical edge, or 4 by extending the plastic mesh material of the panel 5 20 around the corner of the vehicle 10 and securing 6 it to the structure of the vehicle in any suitable 7 8 way. 9 The construction of the advertising panel 20 will 10 now be described with reference to Figs. 5, 12 and 11 The panel comprises a sheet 28 of plastic mesh 12 Typically the mesh material comprises a 13 polyester base fabric coated with PVC. The base 14 fabric may have between 3 and 10 (preferably 5) 15 threads per cm in both warp and weft directions. 16 Flexible plasticised PVC is applied to both sides to 17 produce a material having a weight of between 100 18 and 800  $g/m^2$ , preferably between about 200 and 550 19 g/m<sup>2</sup>. The apertures in the mesh allow an air 20 permeability of between 1000 and 6000 litres/second 21 at 100 pascal, preferably about 2800 litres/second. 22 A suitable mesh is that sold by VUFLEX Digital under 23 the name VUFLEX Digital 550, although it is to be 24 understood that any suitable plastic mesh may be 25 The mesh must be capable of being printed on, 26 to provide an advertising image on one side. Any 27 suitable printing process may be used, such as laser 28 printing or screen printing. 29 30 Reinforcing strips (not shown) of reinforced PVC or 31

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similar material may be bonded to any or all of the 32

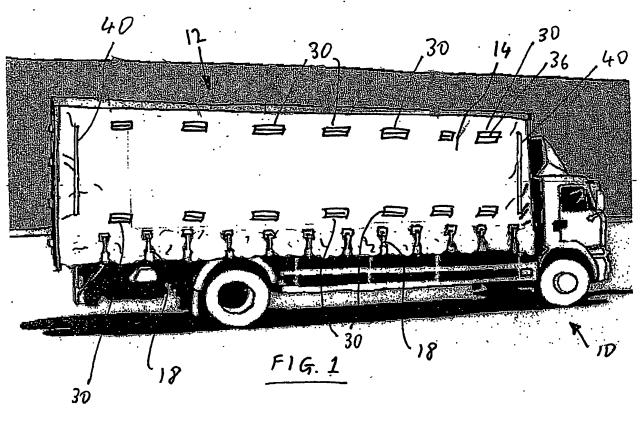
1 edges of the mesh sheet 28 to prevent the 2 advertising panel 20 from tearing or stretching in 3 The reinforcing strips may be bonded by 4 adhesive or by ultrasonic welding. The strips may 5 be of polyester scrim coated with PVC for easy 6 joining to the mesh sheet 28. The thickness of the 7 strips is chosen so that the sheet 28 can be subject to the chosen printing process even with the strips 8 9 attached. Typically the reinforcing strips are between 5 and 15 cm wide, and extend to the 10 11 perimeter of the sheet 28. 12 13 Elongate fasteners 22 are bonded to the longitudinal 14 edges 24 of the mesh sheet 28, with or without 15 reinforcing strips, by wrapping the edge of the 16 sheet around the fastener 22 and stitching with 17 thread 56 or bonding to form a hem 50, as in Fig. 18 12, or by attaching and bonding an edge strip 52, as 19 in Fig. 13. Thermal or adhesive 58 bonding may be 20 used. The elongate fastener 22 comprises a cord or 21 rope 54, or extruded flexible plastic or rubber, 22 held in the hem 50 or edge strip 52. The cord or rope 54 may be free to slide in the hem 50 or edge 23 24 strip 54, or may be restrained or bonded to the hem 25 50 or edge strip 52. Similar elongate fasteners 22 26 are provided on the vertical edges 26 of the panel 27 if push-fit track members 40 are used to secure the 28 vertical edges. 29 30 It has been found that it is advantageous to provide 31 a continuous fastener, preferably a fastener which 32 can engage with the push-fit track member 40 or a

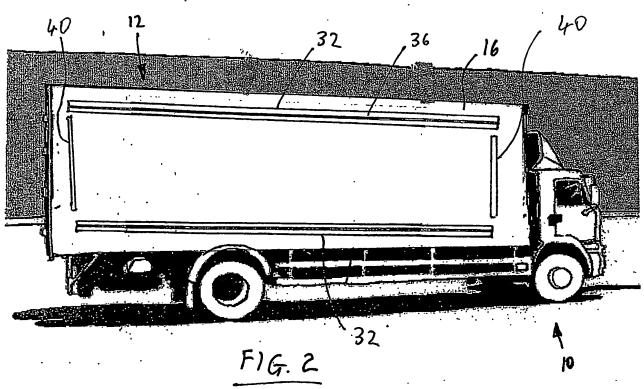
fastener such as a hook and loop fastener (not 1 shown), extending all the way along the leading edge 2 of the advertising panel 20. The leading edge is 3 that edge which is nearer the front of the vehicle 4 The use of a continuous fastener engaging 5 with a corresponding continuous fastener on the 6 vehicle 10 prevents the leading edge of the panel 20 7 lifting away from the vehicle at any point, and 8 helps to hold the panel 20 to the wall 16 or curtain 9 14 without flapping. The same effect can be 10 achieved by continuing the panel around the corner 11 of the vehicle and securing it in place by any 12 suitable means to the end wall of the vehicle. 13 14 Particular arrangements of fasteners are provided 15 for particular models of vehicles 10 and their 16 corresponding adverting panels 20. For example a 17 Transit® van might carry a particular size of 18 advertising panel 20; panels for these vans would 19 carry a particular pattern of fasteners. 20 Corresponding fasteners on Transit® vans would be 21 fixed to the side wall 16 of the van in a 22 corresponding pattern using a particular Transit® . 23 stencil. Similarly, a particular make of Trailer 24 might carry a particular larger size of advertising 25 panel 20; panels for these trailers would carry a 26 different particular pattern of fasteners. 27 Corresponding fasteners on the trailers would be 28 fixed to the curtain 14 or side wall 16 of the 29 trailer in a corresponding pattern using a 30 particular trailer stencil. 31

18 Referring to Fig. 5, there are shown cross-sectional 1 profiles 38a-h of the discrete or continuous slotted 2 3 strip members 30, 32. Profiles 38a-d and 38h have the slot 36 in a side face, while profiles 38e-g 4 5 have the slot 36 in a lower face. Profiles 38a and 38b are attached by bonding using adhesive 42 or 6 7 similar, while profiles 38c-h are attached using fasteners (not shown) which pass through apertures 8 9 A washer plate (not shown) may be used with 10 nuts and threaded fasteners to secure the profiles 38c-h to a curtain 14, or conventional fasteners may 11 be passed through the apertures 44 to secure the 12 13 profiles 38c-h to a rigid wall 16. 14 15 Fig. 6 shows a side elevation of profile 38g. 16 holes 44 are provided at top and bottom for 17 increased stability. The slot 36 is not visible in 18 use, and the advertising panel 20 hangs straight, eliminating wear. Fig. 7 shows a side elevation of 19 profile 38h. Screw holes 44 are provided in the 20 passage 34 so that they remain hidden in use. 21 fittings 46 are provided at spaced intervals along 22 the strip member for illumination of the advertising 23 24 panel 20. 25 26 A method of attaching an advertising panel 20 to the 27 rear of a vehicle which may be provided with a 28 roller shutter door is now described with reference 29 to Figs. 8 to 11. A vehicle 10 has a rear wall 60 30 having a roller shutter door 62. Attached to the 31 shutters of the door 62 at four corners are 32 attachment fixings 66, comprising a plate 70, a loop

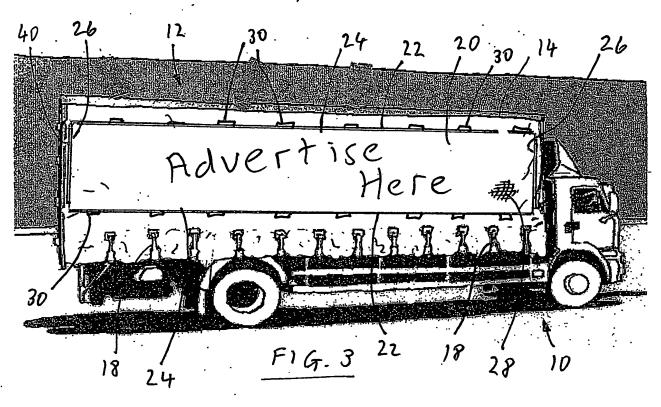
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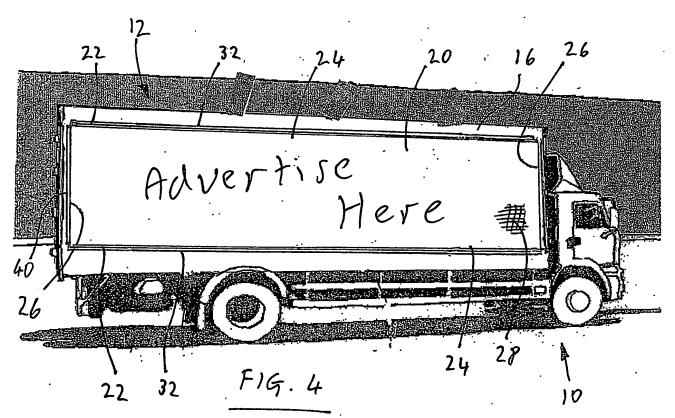
72 and apertures 74 for fasteners (not shown) such 1 2 as screws, bolts, rivets or the like. 3 advertising panel 20 of the type described above 4 with reference to Figs. 1 to 7 is attached to the attachment fixings 66 by means of four resilient 5 6 attachment means 64, of natural or synthetic rubber. 7 Fig. 11 shows four possible shapes for the 8 attachment means 64a-d, but is not to be construed 9 as limiting on the shape. Moreover it is to be 10 understood that more than four attachment means 64 11 may be used, or alternatively more or fewer 12 resilient attachment means 64 may be used in 13 conjunction with some other means of fastening, such as hook and loop fasteners (not shown) or the slot-14 15 engaging elongate fasteners 22 described above. 16 17 In the embodiment of Figs. 8 to 11 the advertising 18 panel can be used with resilient attachment means 64 19 only, so that the elongate fasteners 22 can be 20 omitted. The resilient attachment means 64 allow 21 stretching, so that when the roller shutter door 62 22 is opened by rolling the shutters 61 around a spool 23 63, as shown in Fig. 9, the attachment means 64 24 become elongated to allow for the increased 25 effective length between the top and bottom 26 attachment fixings 66 resulting from the separation 27 of adjacent shutters 61. 28 29 Modifications and variations of the above-described 30 embodiments can be adopted without departing from 31 the scope of the invention.



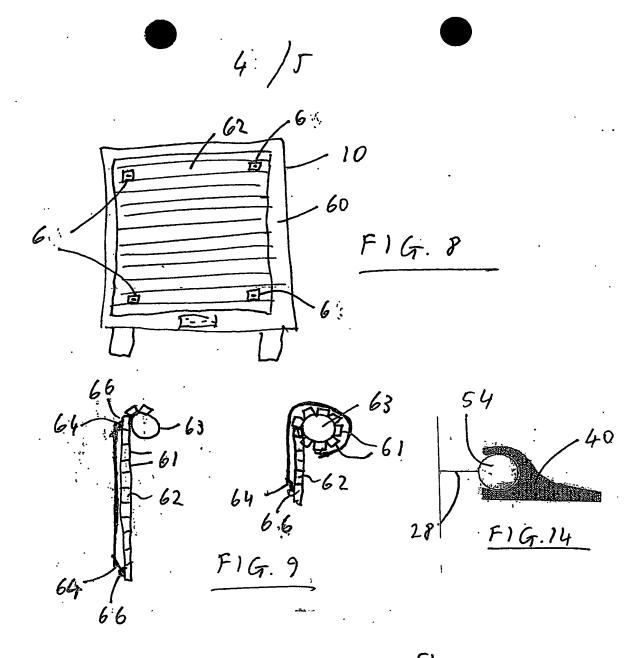


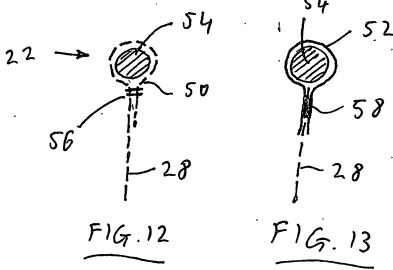
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